

S O L I D



# Annual report 2020

## Solid

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”Let’s rise by lifting others”



# 1

# Solid

- 1.1 Mission
- 1.2 Organization
- 1.3 SDG's tackled



# 1.1 Mission

## Why?

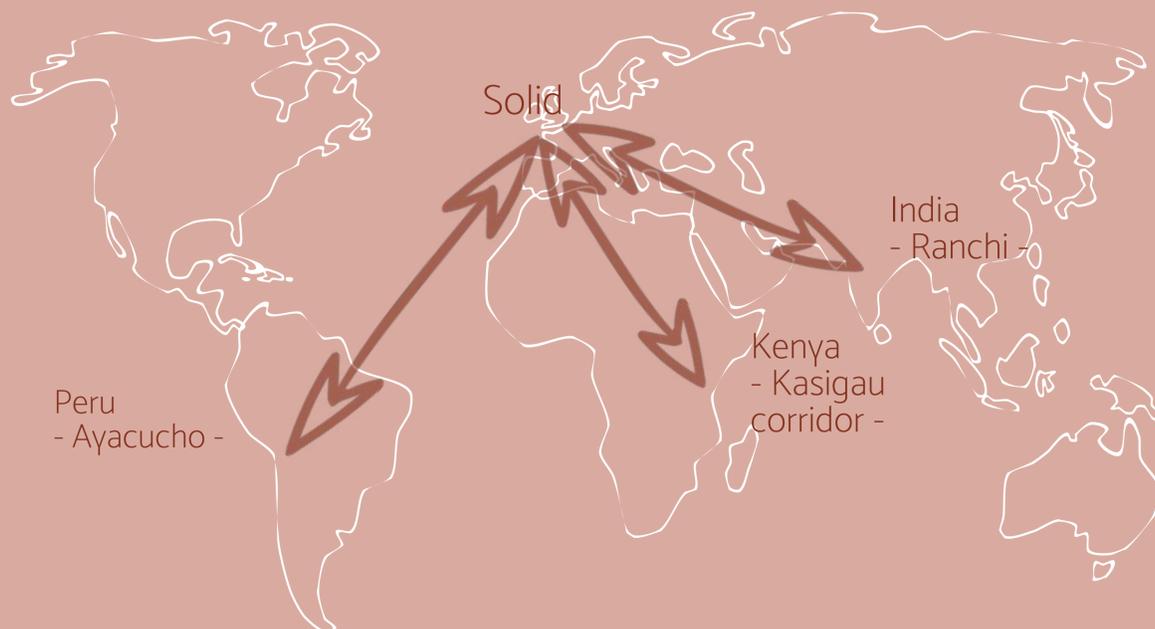
The main goal of Solid is to fight poverty on a long term. By empowering people, by creating fair employment and fair markets, we try to improve the living conditions of disadvantaged people in Peru, India & Kenya.

## How?

Socially responsible commercial enterprises and non-profit organizations join their forces in order to fight against poverty, in different parts of the world. With these local enterprises Solid provides employment and a positive dynamic for the whole community. Profits that come out of these commercial activities in the future, will flow back to the non-profit activities. A perfect combination, because as such, external funding to the non-profit becomes unnecessary on the long run.

## Where?

Peru, Kenya & India



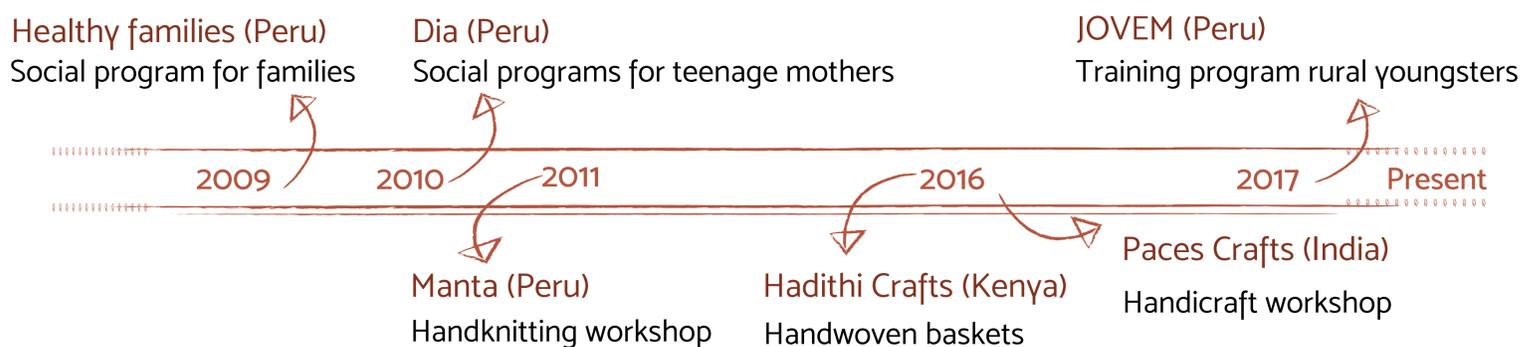
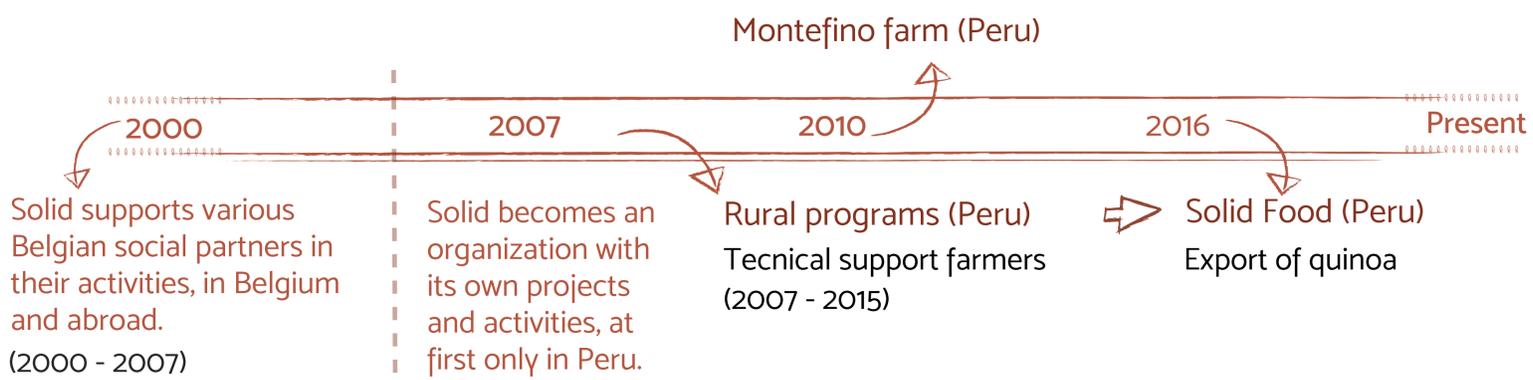
# 1.2 Organization

The non-profit organization Solid was founded in 2000 by Luc Verelst, who after his international real estate career decided to give back to society. Today, the next generation is running the organization with efficiency, determination and a lot of compassion. The 30th April 2020 was set to be a day of celebration, marking 15 years since the creation of Solid Peru. But of course COVID-19 limited travel for us all, and so, for now at least, we celebrated online.

Solid helps young people, women and families to grow a solid foundation for their own future! Solid provides employment opportunities (Solid Crafts / Agriculture) and tools for empowerment (Solid Social), for people in some of the poorer regions in Peru, India and Kenya. All of this, with special attention to personal development and awareness of one's strengths and capabilities.

All the profits generated in the enterprises will be reinvested into the social projects. This is now also reflected in Solid's legal structure. Since 2020 Belgian legislation allows for non-profit organizations to make a profit, without profit distribution or equity benefit. All commercial activities from Solid Crafts bvba were included in Solid vzw, together with the social projects. The full integration and interwovenness of social enterprises and non-profit projects is Solid's trademark. It reflects Solid's entrepreneurial mindset and its unique business model. This way every client of Solid, in Solid Crafts or Solid Agriculture, contributes to a better world.

## History



All of the projects above are still active at present, except for the Healthy families project. The rural programs evolved into Solid Food.

## Team



\*Full time equivalent

## 1.3 Sustainable Development goals tackled

**NO POVERTY:** Fair employment and personal empowerment to break the cycle of poverty

**GENDER EQUALITY:** Creating opportunities for girls and women at risk of social exclusion, prevention of and support in case of gender related violence.

**CLIMATE ACTION**  
Keeping our footprint as low as possible and training sustainable farming techniques.

**PARTNERSHIP FOR THE GOALS**

In alliances with the public sector, civil society and private companies. “Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much”

**GOOD HEALTH & WELL-BEING**

Creating awareness on health topics, connecting people to health services and attentive listening to each personal story.

**QUALITY EDUCATION:** Development of social, personal and technical skills in every project.

**DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH**

Creating FAIR working conditions, to enable long term social impact & entrepreneurial training for youngsters.

# 2

# Social profit

## 2.1 Solid Crafts

- 2.1.1 Peru
- 2.1.2 Kenya
- 2.1.3 India

## 2.2 Solid Agriculture

- 2.2.1 Solid Food
- 2.2.2 Farm Montefino



# 2.1 Solid Crafts

## 2.1.1 Peru

### Handknitting workshop Manta

Manta is a sustainable knitting and crocheting workshop in the Peruvian Andes. Solid’s knitters hand-knit for global fashion and home deco brands. We produce fashion and homewares that customers love, high quality, delivered on time, hassle-free from yarn to home-delivery products. We work with over 180 underprivileged women, providing the education and training they need to become world-class handknitters. The workshop’s main objective is to improve the living conditions of these women, by generating a fair income and opportunities. All the knitters work at Solid’s workshop in Ayacucho or are part of one of the community groups in the rural area around the city. The beautiful handmade products these women make, inspire both themselves and us to dream of a better world. Because we believe “If you empower a woman, you empower a community.”

### Numbers & strategies

Manta had 19 international clients in 2020. The biggest number of products are made for Belgian clients (65%). Other products travel all over the world to Austria (21%), Canada (2%), the USA (1%), France, the Netherlands & the UK.

Over **23,825** products were made.



Manta is proud to produce a wide range of high quality, custom-made knitting handicrafts for customers worldwide, such as headwear, sweaters, scarves, mittens, throws, ponchos, acesories and decorative objects. Our biggest orders are ...



For 2020 Manta can report a revenue of \$ 528,500. However due to the high investment in staff, training, operational costs due to the pandemic and social empowerment, Manta is still not able to make a profit. To become financially stronger Manta needs to operate at a bigger scale and become more cost-efficient.

### Materials

The workshop works with the best alpaca yarn providers in Peru who offer a wide variety of qualities and shades, while guaranteeing international standards. In addition to alpaca, the most luxurious and finest fiber of Peru, Manta has access to organic cotton yarns, tencel, silk and highland sheep yarn. Our main yarn suppliers are: Michell, Inca Tops, Itessa & Cortextil.



© Marie Monsieur for LN Knits

## Production

Manta is continuously working to improve operational processes and many plans were made for 2020. But 2020 presented us with a lot of change and uncertainty. Adaptability to change and maintaining the calm in a changing and stressful world was challenging for the team. The workshop was closed for two months due to lockdown. Many of the knitters returned to their village, to have food security, but not all returned to the city when the lockdown was lifted. Due to the COVID-19 restrictions, the production capacity in the workshop was limited to 46%. Production times were reduced because of the quarantine and delays in the delivery of yarns and other materials. All this led to an overload of work for the knitters and the team. In addition, during high production, some key knitters and teammembers were quarantined after they tested positive for COVID-19.

Due to the social distancing, the amount of people working in the workshop was reduced. Therefore, new strategies had to be adopted, such as knitting at home. But this wasn't always easy for some knitters, mostly single mums, as all childcare services and schools had to close or were organised online, on a national level. The production at home was therefore also slower.



As a result of all this, part of the products were knitted by rural community groups which the workshop had been working with before. Still, this unforeseen change meant more time had to be invested in follow-up, training and quality control to accompany the community group knitters. The additional follow-ups generated extra costs and logistics. As a result of all this, there were delays in delivery, which was detrimental to timely shipments. Finally, logistics and efficient international shipping during the pandemic was one of the biggest challenges.

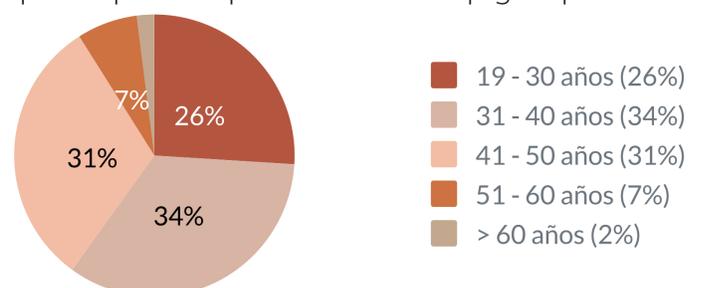
We know our clients also had troubles during the pandemic but none of our clients cancelled their order (not even partly)! This heartened both Manta and Solid. We are grateful to have loyal clients who will not let us down in difficult times. We tried to minimize the delays in our production and have succeeded in keeping our customers satisfied, both in terms of delivery times and quality.

Despite the pandemic, we managed to offer better work continuity to our knitters in 2020. There has hardly been a low season in the production workshop. This created a more stable income for the knitters, a more pleasant work atmosphere and gave room for the purchase of 15 additional hand-knitting machines, as those we have are in use practically all year-round. So now a new group of knitters can get started right away.

## Team and knitters

Manta has 12 team members, in the area of hand knitting, machine handknitting and finishing.

Manta provides employment for over 180 knitters, and up to 202 in high production months. 80% of the knitters work at Manta's main workshop in the city of Ayacucho. 20% of the knitters are part of one of the community groups Manta works with.



Age groups knitters

## Sales

In 2020, our handmade products were shipped to a total of 19 clients worldwide, mainly located in Europe (Belgium, Austria, UK, France, The Netherlands) but also in Canada, the USA & Brazil.



## Sustainability

Our handknitting workshop is WFTO & Promperu certified which recognises our commitment to the highest standards of social and environmental performance.



Solid is a value and purpose driven honest business with the United Nations' Global Goals for Sustainable Development entwined in our DNA. We are delivering on the UN's Goals of Gender Equality, Decent Work and Economic Growth, Reduce Inequalities, and Responsible Consumption and Production.

In 2020, extra attention was given to the alpaca supply chain and the development of RAS (Responsible alpaca standard) is followed closely with our suppliers and clients. If all goes well this will be launched in 2021.

## Social work at Manta

Manta values highly the empowerment of its artisans, focusing on personal development and empowerment by providing social workshops in the workplace. Manta works on the personal well-being of the knitting mothers through means of individual coaching and group sessions, on health issues, personal well-being, the prevention of violence and education.

Every day we hear stories of what the decent work and fair employment mean to our artisans and their families. We see them blossom into confident, strong women. Many of our artisans have never finished secondary school, or even primary school. For many, working at Solid's workshop is the first time they feel valued, and their self-esteem is growing. Bringing these women together, away from their domestic, often harsh lives, has created a wonderful sisterhood. Our workshop is their safe place. This connection is an integral part of Solid, which is touching the hearts of brands and consumers around the world.

In 2020 the focus was on the prevention of COVID-19. Implementing many preventive measures, providing masks, hygiene kits and information, we could keep the number of infections low. 29 knitters tested positive, and completed their isolation and treatment. Ten team members and volunteers also tested positive at some point. Knitters continued with their weekly practice of keep-fit and in the machine area, all knitters received ear protection. Two health campaigns took place, at the start of the year. Two knitters were diagnosed with the first signs of breast cancer and 30% of the knitters have a STD (sexually transmitted disease). Thanks to testing they are now able to receive support and treatment.





- 24% of the knitters are single mothers.
- 78% of the knitters are mothers with children < 18 years old.
- 82% of the knitters didn't finish primary school.
- 90% of the knitters have a rural background & didn't grow up in the city.

## Childcare & school

Working with young, underprivileged, mothers, Solid chose to invest in a high-quality day-care service, next to the workshop, giving peace of mind to all the knitting mothers and providing a stimulating environment for their children. In 2020, the schools were not open due to Covid-19, creating new needs in the families of the knitters. Many parents had difficulties in supporting their children academically, due to lack of knowledge, digital skills and a lack of access to good internet, a computer, smartphone or printer. The caregivers of the nursery and pre-school program transformed themselves into a team that guided the knitters and their children in all their questions about emotional wellbeing and online education.

Some mothers, with incomplete primary or secondary school education, were motivated to resume their studies online, to provide a better future for their children and at the same time fulfill their dreams of completing their education.

17 knitters participate in the free adult education program, that Solid organized in cooperation with a public school.

Motivated supervisors strengthened their digital skills, as this became much more present in daily life and production.

Videos were made and broadcasted on Facebook and television, about 'Emotion management', 'Prevention of violence', 'Positive parenting' & 'Prevention of Covid-19'. Eight videos were made in Quechua, the local mother tongue of many knitters. One video had over 55 000 views. 79% of the viewers were women.

90% of the knitters are supporting their children academically, compared to 46% at the start of the year.

176



children of knitters, aged between 3 and 18, receive educational support. Despite all the barriers, all these children finished the school year successfully. Two primary school students resumed their studies. Two children left school because of stress and anxiety as a result of social isolation. 20 children and adolescents excelled in their schooling achievements.

36

babies receive constant follow-up, food and hygiene support packages.



# 2.1 Solid Crafts



## 2.1.2 Kenya

### Hadithi Crafts

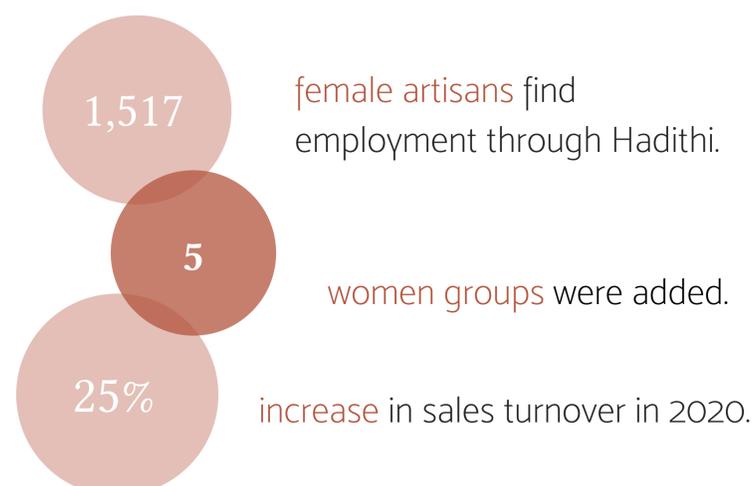
Hadithi Crafts is based in the South-East of Kenya, in the Kasigau region, located between the Tsavo East and West National Park. Hadithi's handwoven baskets are a collection of traditional and contemporary sisal and palm leave baskets. Hadithi means 'a story' in Swahili, because each basket tells the unique story of the powerful woman whose hands braided it. What's more, every basket sold directly supports its creators and their families, ensuring a fair income and financial independence for Kenyan women in rural areas, where employment is scarce. Selling these baskets also provides a sustainable alternative to environmentally harmful practices like the poaching of wildlife and destruction of forests for charcoal, timber or farmland. All of the profits from Hadithi's sales are used to offer support to local women's groups and the conservation of wildlife and forests in south-eastern Kenya.

#### Numbers

2020 presented itself with three months of provincial lockdown and loss of orders and revenue. There were additional costs and overheads to reckon with. 1,500 masks were handed out to all the artisans.

Hadithi made a good comeback in the second half of 2020, with a 25% increase in sales turnover compared to 2019. Over 10,500 hadithi baskets were sold through Solid, generating € 80,000 of income for the weavers. The little profits made got reinvested in expanding the business.

Over 1,517 female artisans were involved in crafts-making for Hadithi in 2020. These women are organized into 51 women groups in the Kasigau region. This meant an extra 5 women groups and an 8% growth in artisans compared to 2019. 40 existing women groups were strengthened in quality standards.



#### Plans, hope and dreams

In 2021 Hadithi plans to open nine community shops with all the necessary materials for the basket weaving, close to where the women live.

Hadithi plans to grow further, by 150%, so all the women can earn an even better income. This means internal and communication systems have to be optimized. All the chairladies will receive a smartphone soon! New sampling and design will also be important to in the development of new competitive products. Each women group will receive three training sessions in 2021.

Hadithi also plans to further monitor the impact of its job creation, by doing an impact survey in all the women groups.





## 2.1 Solid Crafts

### 2.1.3 India



#### Paces Crafts

Paces Crafts is a hand-weaving workshop in the heart of India's northern region, Jharkhand, the second poorest state in India. With Paces Crafts, Solid aims to provide sustainable employment for tribal women living in rural area around the city of Ranchi. By offering an honest income to these young women Solid wants to bring an alternative to human trafficking and the uncertainties and dangers of day laboring. Paces Crafts produces a wide variety of handwoven and crocheted products, all custom-made for conscious brands and retailers. For this project Solid can count on the financial support of the Belgian government (DGD) through its business partnership facility.

#### Production

2020 started out as a promising year, a year in which Paces would expand and validate its new business model. In January and February the first batch of women were trained in weaving and were about to start their first production. Paces was ready to move to a bigger building. Meanwhile in Europe, Solid Crafts sales platform had invested a lot of time in defining the perfect sales strategy.

Then COVID-19 hit! Europe went in lockdown and after a few weeks India followed. The Indian lockdown had dramatic consequences for the poorest, all over India. Migrant workers especially were forced by circumstance to travel back, often by foot, to their state of origin. The informal market collapsed and left many Indians with no income for several months.



During the months of lockdown Paces maintained the possibility to give work to the women, tasks they could do at home. Paces also provided some emergency financial support to the most vulnerable women. The management team continued its work online, from their home office.

Skype became our new office-space and time was taken to analyse, question, change, and improve many processes.

Paces came out stronger than ever! In September Paces was finally able to open its doors again. The first thing on the agenda was to finally move to the new, bigger building and to ship all the finished products that were stuck in Ranchi for months, to Europe.

## Sales

COVID-19 has damaged the fashion industry severely. Finding new clients in this sector was extremely difficult. Most of the businesses were clinging on to existing collaborations and were not in the right mindset to start working with new partners.

But there is also a positive note! The home interior market however has grown tremendously. Forced to stay at home, people invested more in cosiness in their homes. Therefore, Paces decided to take a risk and invest further in the production of a homeware brand: **Bombyx Tales of India**. This collection embraces all kinds of furnishings and homeware made from recycled saris.

It was also decided to focus sales efforts on the home interior market and this has led to some interesting prospects for 2021. To be continued!

SOLID  
crafts

### Why recycled saris?

Saris are, often colourful, draped garments worn by women in India. They consist of a four to nine meter long, and around one meter wide, cloth that is worn around the waist and shoulder.

We recycle, wash and upcycle the saris into woven, crocheted and embroidered products. Except for transportation the supply chain and production of these sari products is completely carbon neutral! And every piece is unique.

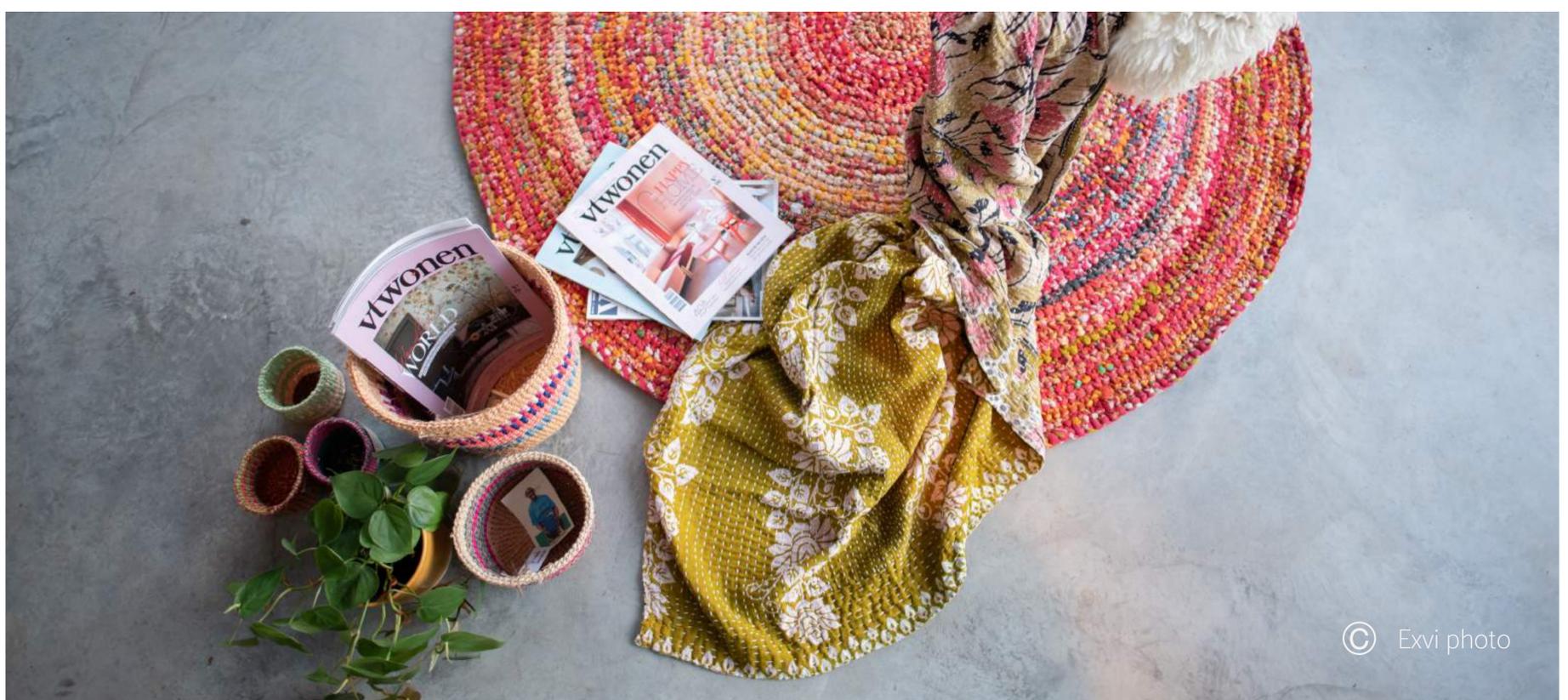
## Numbers

In 2020, the artisanal team doubled in size to 53 female artisans, thanks to a successful training program at the start of the year. 1,055 pieces of clothing and other handmade products were made for our clients in fashion and homeware.

Despite the lockdown and setbacks in 2020, Paces could realize a revenue of \$ 28 677.

## Social work & childcare

2020 saw the launch of the Quality of Life survey. The survey allowed the women to reflect on their circumstances, hopes and motivations. It was also used to create a social programme, ensuring the topics were chosen by and relevant to the artisans. The first event was a Human Rights workshop. The social programme has since been paused through the pandemic but is planned to resume in 2021.



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Right to  
Survival

Right to health  
care, to safe  
drinking water, a  
nutritious food, a  
clean and safe  
environment, and  
information to help  
them stay healthy

स्वास्थ्य सेवा, पीने के पानी,  
पोषक भोजन, स्वच्छ और  
सुरक्षित वातावरण और उन्हें स्वस्थ  
रहने में मदद करने के लिए सूचना  
का अधिकार

Right to

## 2.2 Solid Agriculture in Peru

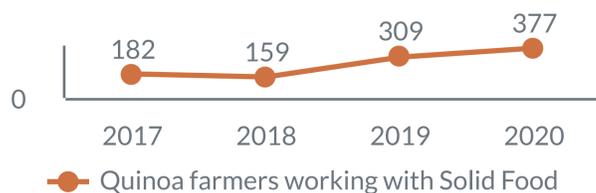
### 2.2.1 Solid Food

Quinoa can be considered, "the mother of grains". Even the Incas were certain of it. With its mark of "super food", quinoa conquers the world. What's more, quinoa is not just full of vitamins, it's also one of the most water-footprint friendly grains on the planet. At Solid Food, we honour the tradition and the origin of this precious seed. Indeed, technically quinoa is a seed and not a grain. Our quinoa is produced strictly in the very heart of Peru, Ayacucho by local farmers. Solid food builds on the foundations made by Solid rural, since 2007. Solid rural has a long working relation with quinoa farmers, in the rural areas around Ayacucho, training and assisting them on their fields on a day-to-day basis for many years, helping them improve their agricultural business to become self-sufficient and consequently improve their social living conditions.

Since 2016 Solid Food brings this (organic) Peruvian quinoa directly to the Western market. Solid Food is a spin-off of Solid that commercializes the products honestly, ensuring a clear profit to the local farmer. The program was developed for and in close collaboration with the farming families. There is still a big focus on capacity building and an intensive, sustainable and long-term cooperation with the farmers themselves.

#### Numbers & strategies

In 2020 Solid Food Peru gave technical assistance to 377 farmers, a growth of more than 20% compared to 2019. Every farmer was visited at least four times during the year.



Due to the pandemic, less quinoa was exported than the year before. However, thanks to some new clients the same level of sales could be maintained at Solid Food.

It's also clear that the importance of the organic market is growing: in 2017 about 30% of our exports was organic quinoa, whereas this percentage increased to 55% in 2020. In 2020 Solid Food Peru obtained, as one of the first companies in Ayacucho, its Peruvian Fairtrade label of "Buenas Practicas de Comercio Justo", with a very high score of 99,20%. Although Fairtrade principles have been in Solid's DNA from the start, this was a nice confirmation of our sustainability approach. As a social enterprise, having both business and social goals, Solid Food wanted to do something about the polluting ocean freight. That's why since the end of 2020 a cooperation with GoodShipping was set up, resulting in all of Solid Food's ocean freight to be climate neutral. This way about 64.000 kg of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions can be offsetted on an annual basis!



© Isabel Corthier

Get more info on [solidfood.global](https://solidfood.global)

For 2021 Solid Food will focus even more on the food processing industry. This will be done by emphasizing its strengths: quinoa of an excellent taste and offering high production yield in the industrial process. A 100% traceability guarantee and a major social impact are the other USP's of Solid Food.

## 2.2.2 Farm Montefino

Montefino, until 2017 known as Avelac, was set up as a training institute for farmers with dairy cattle. It's located on the roof of the Andes, at an altitude of 3800 meters. Initially this social company wanted to help to improve the cattle breeding in Ayacucho, but during the last ten years, activities at the farm expanded. Run by a collective of 17 local shareholders, Montefino is producing its own cheese, yoghurt and other dairy products on site. On the 49 hectares of cultivated fields they are experimenting with new products (for this altitude) such as organic strawberries, blueberries, cut flowers and other agricultural products. Montefino also breeds pigs, guinea pigs, chickens and trout.

Farm Montefino became a training institute for youngsters of our Jovem project, our young entrepreneurs (p. 31) and a place where visitors from the city, can experience the real Ayacuchan farm life. They can participate in daily farm activities, enjoy a local meal, have a chat with the farmers and even stay overnight to escape the busy city life.

### Numbers

Montefino is very proud of its cheese. In 2020 the dairy factory produced 14 170 kg of cheese and Montefino was even crowned national champion in the 4th national cheese competition, with the "ANDINO" cheese.



It can be said the jury was very demanding and of international stature. This event generated a lot of interest from local customers, as well as authorities of the Ayacucho region. During the first half of 2020, the demand for cheese was relatively low due to the extended quarantine. However, in the last semester and specifically in the last two months of the year, the demand for cheese grew exponentially, driven by the prize that was won. Because of this growth almost 95% of our milk production was destined to process dairy products. In 2020 there was an increase of about 25% in the milk production (209,852 L.) and therefore an increase in sales compared to the previous year.

The farm has 81 cows and a steady rhythm of four births per month. The productivity per cow was 14 liters day. 17,595 L of yogurt, 10,000L more than in 2019, were processed.

At the end of 2019, 500 m2 of new strawberries were planted with the JOVEM project. This plantation went into full production in 2020. 1,938 kg of this delicious fruit were produced and easily sold (4 times more than in 2019), as the demand for strawberries was very high during the quarantine. 2,400 bundles of roses were sold, this demand dropped during the pandemic. All the product were sold locally, in one of Solids four shops; at the farm, at the city centre or at the airport of Ayacucho, and even in the street because of the high demand. The shop at the airport was closed for almost 10 months and only reopened at the end of January 2021.

The agrotourism activity was relatively low compared to 2019, with only 1,036 visitors in 2020. The quarantine issued by the Peruvian government paralyzed tourism activities for more than six months.



# 3

# Non-profit

## 3.1 Social programs in Peru

3.1.1 Urban region

3.1.2 Rural region



# 3.1 Social programs in Peru

## 3.1.1 Urban region

Desarrollo Integral del Adolescente (Dia), translated as ‘Development of adolescents’, is a social organization which specifically targets the problems surrounding teenage pregnancies and sexual abuse in minors. Through different projects, the organization wants to strengthen the self-reliance and empowerment of these girls, often living in (extreme) poverty.

Both in the rural area as in the city, teenage pregnancies still remain a large problem. The risks of young girls, and their children, ending up on the streets with no education, poor parenting skills and no vision on the future whatsoever is a problem we at Solid are determined to help tackle. Dia focusses on the prevention of teenage pregnancies, on shelter for young girls, victims of sexual violence and strengthening positive parenting skills of young teenage mothers. Young parents are encouraged to get an education and help them find the right daycare for their young children.

### Strategies

Dia has three main strategies to work the multidimensional issue of teenage pregnancy.

#### A. Prevention

Project CDA

Adolescent Development Centre

#### B. Coaching

Project EMMA

Empowering adolescent mothers

#### C. Shelter

Project CAR

Center for Temporary Residential Care

### Numbers

**2** out of every **10** teenage girls in Ayacucho is a mother or pregnant.  
1055 pregnancies in 2020 (15,6%), compared to 12,6% nationally.

(Source: DIRESA & INEI-ENDES 2018)

**1055** adolescents under the age of 18 became mothers during 2020 in the Ayacucho Region.

(Source: DIRESA OGTI Report Ayacucho 2020)

**300** children and adolescents were sexually assaulted in the Ayacucho Region during 2020.

(Source: Mesa de concertación Ayacucho 2020 Report)

**20** adolescent girls under the age of 10 became mothers during 2020, victims of sexual violence in Peru.

(Source: MINSA 2020I birth registration)



## A. Prevention

In Peru, despite the existence of national guidelines for comprehensive sex education, in most schools and families there is still a great taboo around sex and sex education and it is common to push the message of no sex before marriage. However, statistics indicate that many adolescent girls have sex before the age of 15. In Ayacucho 15.6% of pregnancies were in teenage girls in 2018, (INEI-ENDES 2018. Elaboration: MCLCP). This regional figure is above the national average of 12.6%.

CDA, Centre for Adolescent Development, believes that creating a positive school environment, providing informative sex education and improving the personal skills of young people are part of the solution, which is why we have worked in five targeted educational institutions with teachers and students, providing interactive workshops, taught by the teachers themselves and supported by the CDA team.

CDA also strengthened student leaders to become advocates for change, working with their peers, to tackle the issue of teenage pregnancy.

**The activities of the CDA during 2020 had to be suspended due to the closure of schools as a consequence of the pandemic.**



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## B. Coaching

The EMMA project offers counselling to adolescent mothers in Ayacucho, Peru. Through weekly home visits, trained nurses and obstetricians accompany adolescent mothers during pregnancy and after childbirth, ensuring the proper development of mother and child for one year. At the same time, they pay special attention to the mother's personal development and emotional well-being.

Many of the teenage mothers live in a situation of violence, often repeated from generation to generation, creating a vicious circle from which it is difficult to escape. As of July 2020, 26,400 girls under the age of 19 gave birth nationally, 460 of which were children under the age of 14, according to MINSA's Live Birth Certificate Online Registration System (CNV). Two out of ten teenagers in the Ayacucho region, become pregnant or are already mothers (Peruvian National Institute of Statistics 2017). Faced with this reality, EMMA wants to offer better prospects.

It is important to note that many girls and adolescents who become pregnant have been victims of abuse and sexual and/or family violence. This situation is combined with school drop-out and social stigmatisation. The socio-demographic conditions of adolescent girls are not helping: out of 111 adolescent mothers, 43 (38.7%) of them come from a broken family, 58 (52.2%) do not live with their partner, and those that do, do not have the support they should receive. 45% of them (50) come from homes with family violence problems, more than half of the adolescent mothers (56.6%) dropped out of school (according to the socio-economic data sheet - DIA - 2020). These are very complex data that present a great challenge to the project, since this is a very vulnerable group, invisible to the Peruvian state.



## Target group

Every year, 100 teenage mothers, between 14 and 17 years old and their children, under 3 years of age are accompanied. Partners and family members are also invited to participate. Outreach is done through health centers and media. The participating teenage mothers are selected based on poverty criteria and often live in the outskirts of the city of Ayacucho. Most struggle with malnutrition, domestic violence, abandonment and school drop-out. In 2020, due to the context of COVID-19, 111 adolescent mothers were invited to the program, as they are a highly vulnerable group that required support. By the end of the year, 102 of the teenagers completed the project.

The focus is on improving the development of the young child and their mother, assuring good health, wellbeing and a safe and stimulating environment. Teenage mothers are encouraged to go back to school, to break the chain of poverty and low education.

**57%** of teenage mothers come from a home with family violence problems.

**52%** of teenage mothers live without a partner.

**39%** of teenage mothers come from broken families.

**55%** of teenage mothers dropped out of school because of early pregnancy.

## Activities

In 2020, the usual home visits had to be organized online, using social networks and digital platforms or through calls. Individual sessions and group workshops were organized on topics like emotion management, the prevention of violence, family planning, positive parenting, the prevention of Covid-19, education, health and nutrition. This digital way of working was new for all of the teenagers as well as for the team and challenging at first. Through an emergency grant of one of our partners, cellphones and internet recharges could be ensured. 44 videos were also made and broadcasted on different channels, talking about topics related to the program. Some videos were made together with teenage parents, talking from their experience. The information reached over 254,500 people, 79% of the audience being women.

## Results

The coordinated work with the municipalities and partner institutions allowed the work with the teenage mothers to have the expected results, even in a complicated context such as Covid-19. With the help of international partners, the project could be continued and new needs were covered. Food, hygiene and school packages were provided, and covered the basic needs created by the sudden unemployment of our target group.



**98%**

of teenage mothers know and have tools to manage their emotions in a healthy way. (86% at the start)

**90%**

of teenage mothers are now aware of the care routes in cases of violence. 4 cases were reported. (19% at the start)

**86%**

of teenage mothers have a structured daycare routine for their child at home, as child care services are closed for 1 year. (40% at the start)

**74%**

of teenage mothers use a contraceptive method. (40% at the start)

**99%**

of teenage mothers avoided a second pregnancy.

**91%**

of teenage mothers practice handwashing as a preventive COVID measure. (55% at the start)

The active participation of some of the partners of the teenage mothers gave good results; 25.7% of them now use a contraceptive method (only 17% at the start), meaning both partners assuming the responsibility for sexual health. We only had one case of unplanned second pregnancy.

85 adolescent mothers implemented play areas at home for their children. The distribution of toys taught us that along with the implementation it is necessary to work on the promotion of the importance of play. The practice of play allowed the teenage mothers and their families to consider play as an activity that influences the child's development positively, especially in times of confinement, when children could not go out to play with others.

## Educational support

The team also focused on the education of the teenage mothers. 83 of them hadn't finished secondary school, 47 were not studying at the moment. The girls were accompanied in the enrollment process, motivated constantly and received help with the many challenges online education presented for them (lack of access to quality internet, a mobile phone or laptop, limited digital skills, as well as the lack of support from the partner). 44 teenagers (53%) retook their studies and 36 (43%) didn't abandon school in this challenging context. Only 3 mothers didn't study. Some girls even managed to complete two grades in one year, participating in a faster program and one teenage mother achieved the First Place diploma in her school. The new reality of online classes seemed to be an advantage for the girls to resume their studies, being able to be at home with their child and study at the same time. Others could remain connected even when moving to the countryside to find more food security.





“

"When my son finished his routines he was very happy, he wanted to repeat every step and would ask me 'Mummy, what's next, what do we do tomorrow? The routines are helping me to get my son to brush his teeth without tantrums, to eat, to wash his hands & to organise my day. Thank you!"

”

Flor Arone

## C. Shelter

The CAR de DIA is the only Residential Care Centre in Ayacucho that cares for teenage girls and teenage mothers and their children, victims of domestic and sexual violence.

The adolescents are referred by the Special Child Protection Unit or the court and are accompanied in recovering from the trauma until being reintegrated into their family nucleus or until they start living independently, for those who reach the age of majority. Most girls stay for up to two years, during which their life skills and emotional wellbeing are strengthened.

### Target group

We take in teenage girls and teenage mothers who are victims of domestic and sexual violence, between 12 and 18 years old, who are referred through the Special Protection Unit and the Family Court (justice operators) in the city of Ayacucho. The accompaniment lasts approximately two years. There maximum capacity is 15 teenagers and three teenage mothers with their child.

The girls in the shelter are accompanied in all areas of their lives and strenghtened through individual sessions, group sessions and therapy. The work with the family is done by the social worker to strengthen the bond family - adolescent and ensure a healthy family reintegration.

The move to a much larger house (thanks to the support of an important international partner) with green areas, reduced the effects of the social confinement since more spaces for accompaniment were created.



including, 3 teenage  
mothers and their  
young child.

52% of the adolescents are admitted for sexual violence.

26% of the adolescents are admitted for domestic violence.

22% of the adolescents are admitted due to family abandonment.



## Results

### Social Work

In 2020 we were only able to work with three families due to lack of interest and the impact of the pandemic. The girls stayed in touch with family members through phone only.

### Psychological care

18 adolescents received therapy sessions. Three adolescents continue to have psychiatric appointments and the corresponding medication for psychiatric problems. 90% of the girls were emotionally stable and progress is evident. Emotion management techniques and psycho-education techniques, used in a playful way allow them to improve their emotion regulation and behaviour.

**70%** adolescents with reduced anxiety.

**100%** of teenage mothers have strengthened their positive parenting skills.

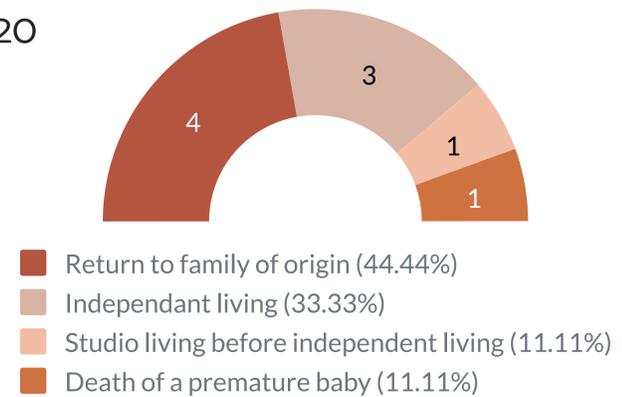
### Education

- 90% of the girls continued their studies on a regular basis\*.
  - 10% follow classes in the weekend\*
- \*Both forms, due to the pandemic, were virtual.

### Covid cases

An isolation area was set up for the new adolescents who entered the CAR, where they'd stay for a period of 15 days. There were NO cases of covid-19 in the adolescents and their children.

### Nine girls left the Residential care centre in 2020



Activities like bio-gardening, knitting and cooking, created therapeutic spaces as well as opportunities for entrepreneurship, allowing the teenagers to generate a small income as well as emotional stability.

The ancestral knowledge about Andean culture has helped us to overcome moments of social isolation, with health establishments providing limited emergency care. Ailments were resolved with the consumption of medicinal plants, combined with having private doctors and dentists helping us in cases of medical attention.

The accompaniment of this group is a daily learning process. Some worrying cases of self-harm (cutting), were seen in 2020, They have allowed the team to strengthen their knowledge on these issues. Working on grief is of utmost importance in all aspects, moving to a new home, the death of a baby, girls returning to their families, as letting go of these attachments affected the adolescents emotionally.

Cooperation with many allies was essential in 2020: health centres, schools, justice, among others, allowed for comprehensive care.



# 3.1 Social Programs in Peru

## 3.1.2 Rural region

Solid Agriculture has two social projects: Jovem - Jóvenes emprendedores or 'young entrepreneurs' and Familias saludables or 'healthy families'.

JOVEM wants to strengthen entrepreneurial, technical and agricultural skills and personal development of students, in the 4th and 5th year of secondary schools in the rural surroundings of Ayacucho.

Familias saludables or the Healthy Families Project contributes to improving the living conditions of rural families in conditions of (extreme) poverty, strengthening their capacities in the practice of healthy behaviours, family relationships, the improvement of their housing and the generation of income.

**The activities of the Healthy Families project had to be suspended in 2020, due to the COVID-19 restrictions and a draw back in resources.**



## Young entrepreneurs - Jovem

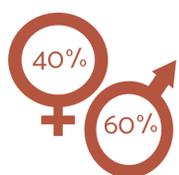
Jóvenes emprendedores, translated as 'young entrepreneurs' is a three year training program for rural students, age 15 to 23, to strengthen their entrepreneurial, technical and agricultural skills and personal development. This project responds to the problem of the lack of opportunities for young people coming from rural areas. Through an agricultural and business training Jovem gives them the possibility to become a successful entrepreneur, in order to improve their living conditions on the countryside.

The training normally takes place during the weekend, at the "Montefino farm", a place that has facilities for small and large animals, a variety of crops and flowers, a dairy processing plant, accommodation and a restaurant. In 2020 classes were organized online and in the students' communities. Students have a monthly contribution of 5€, which can be paid in cash, with food or labour. This small contribution encourages the families and students to value the training and evaluate well their commitment.

### Target group

In 2020 the team accompanied 81 students from five rural schools, 58 at the intermediate level and 23 at the advanced level. Unfortunately no new students were selected for the basic level due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The government took restrictive measures at a national level which did not allow face-to-face classes. The training only continued with the students already in the program.

#### 58 students - intermediate level



64% of the parents work in agriculture (58% in quinoa) 19 families work with Solid Food. 

Most of the families of the students consist of five family members (40%) or more (30%). On average, the families earn between 90€ and 115€ per month (39%). 27% earns less.

A family would need around €15 a day to cover food, health and other expenses, adequately. Most families earn an average of €3 a day. This is reflected in the health indicators where children under five years suffer from malnutrition and anemia.



### Results Basic Level

In 2020 the build of a new auditorium and brand new dorms for the project were completed. Unfortunately the pandemic didn't allow for the students to use them. As classes couldn't be organized at the farm the team decided not to select new first year students. The lack of digital skills in rural youngsters, limited access to internet and laptops, would make the start of the training especially hard.

### Learning by doing

The Jovem project is complementary to the regular education and lasts 3 years. Training is focused on sustainable farming techniques, in a variety of products, entrepreneurship and personal development. Classes combine theory and practice and students are encouraged to learn by doing, in a group business (first year) or their own individual business (second year).

## Results Intermediate Level

In the second year, students have the knowledge to develop their individual business plan and participate in a business plan competition to get access to a loan and to become real entrepreneurs. This competition evaluates the business idea and most importantly their attitude. Classes in business management and personal development continue in order to strengthen soft or entrepreneurial skills. In 2020 every school (5) received a laptop and two modems, to connect to Google Classroom. These classes were strengthened through regular community visits, taking into account all preventive measures. Only 5 students left the training, 53 students pass to the advance level.

66% of the students (38) will implement their businesses between November 2020 and March 2021; 36 with a project loan of 800 soles (€ 180) on average and two with their own resources.

- Egg production (8)
- Guinea pigs (4)
- Chickens (4)
- Honey (2)
- Bakery (1)
- Beef Cattle (1)
- Quinoa production (6)
- Pigs (4)
- Strawberries (4)
- Flowers (2)
- Grocery shop (1)
- Mushrooms (1)

**60%** of the students (2nd & 3rd year) report that they have improved their communication with their parents and are able to express their feelings and goals.

**70%** of the students (2nd & 3rd year) have improved their self-esteem and assertiveness. 67% of them have strengthened their self-confidence and believe more in themselves.

## Advanced Level

The advanced group is made up of 23 youngsters, girls and boys, who have their own enterprise (since 2018) in raising bees, guinea pigs, chickens, pigs, cultivating strawberries, vegetables, roses, quinoa, etc. Their products are high in demand in their areas and several of them already sell their products in the city. 92% of the youngsters continue with their enterprises today, earning an average monthly income of 450 to 500 soles (€ 100). An income comparable to their parents', but obtained with less hours and efforts, enabling them to invest time and resources in further studies. 9 students continue higher education at the University of Ayacucho. When having the support of the parents, many of these ventures turn into family businesses.

**96 %**

of the students (22) have a profitable business.

**91 %**

of the students improved their product management to demand a higher price.

**87%**

of the students shared their experiences and technical knowledge with 2 other farmers.



When I started my business, I didn't have the support of my parents and that discouraged me, but I made an effort to continue, with the income I obtained from selling eggs I could cover some of my study expenses. My parents decided that I should leave the business to them and dedicate myself only to my studies.

- Janet Vizcarra Carrión (Allpachaka)



## External audit

In 2020 the project received an external audit, at the request of Collibri Foundation, the sponsor of the project. The suggestions mentioned in the audit will serve as a basis for further interventions. The main challenges are to further strengthen gender equality within the program and to find new strategies to improve the living conditions of these youngsters, in the rural area to stop their migration.

**"JOVEM demonstrates to young people that opportunities for change in living conditions and life projects can be created locally rather than looking elsewhere." \* Audit Report**

**40%** of the students participating in the programme confirm they are creating a new perception of rural development and opportunities for progress in the countryside.



# 4

# Partners

- 4.1 Sponsors & clients
- 4.2 Emergency support



# 4 Partners

## Sponsors of Solid



Stichting Huize Buitenveldert



With support from the Collibri Fund, BRIGHT fund and Business Partnership Facility, managed by the King Baudouin Foundation. Also thanks to the many private sponsors making a contribution to Solid.

## Clients Solid Crafts



## Clients Solid Food



## Shops and selling points where Solid Crafts ready made fashion and / or interior products are sold.

A line story	Escape	Just Hazel	Lulu	Philippo rozen	The Golden House
Amabile concept store	Fais à ta mode	Just Julia	Madame Panier	Plek shop	The Wonderful
Atelier Van Gastel	Frankly	Jütту	Mahome	Podjo	Tutamanta
Bohome Vintage	Gabelmann	Kunst * Bunch	Mambo baskets	Renée	Unterhaltung Lieblingsstuecke
Bramigk & Breer	Gero Wonen	L'Amuzette	Mamuli	Rewind	Van Eccelpoel - De Veranda
Colombian boho	Gina Concept Store	La Maison DC	Mini Markt	Rose Avril	Wadapartja
Couleur Locale	Glück	La petite annette	Mira	Schoenen Cools	Wildernis
Damme Florals	Goûts et Couleurs	Le MuZée de L'Amuzette	Monique Stam	Schwesterherz	Winkel van Sinkel
De Bus	Gruun	Let's Create	Mouton Sauvage	Shood	Wongergreen
De Houten Kruik	Haarlem House	Lili Pont	Nathalie Vleeschouwer	Slow Cabins	Zelda & Zorro
DF Shop	Harmony	Little Green stories	Nur Conceptstore	Soshun	
Duka Moodstore	Harvest Club	Lots of Lili	Objet Trouvé	t Labo	
Ensemble	Ilo	Lovely Marie	Paulette in t stad	The Beach House Javea	

# 4 Partners

## 4.2 Emergency support

The Coronavirus pandemic had a major impact on the majority of the **Peruvian population** in terms of work, food, health and education. Thousands of people lost their jobs due to the confinement, as 70% of the Peruvian population works informally. 100% of the teenage mothers were left unemployed. With no work or reduced wages, Peruvians found it difficult to buy basic necessities, even though the Peruvian government provided food vouchers and food support, it was not enough. None of the teenage mothers received this aid, as they are minors. In the health sector, COVID-19 revealed the critical situation of the Peruvian health system, with a lack of adequate care for cases of COVID-19, lack of beds, oxygen, medicines, among others. Making it difficult for children to get their vaccinations and for parents to access family planning. Preventive practices such as the use of masks and hygiene practices were barely imbedded in day to day lives, and also had their limitations; thousands of Peruvians do not have the resources to buy quality masks, soap, alcohol, etc. In terms of education, all child care services remained closed in 2020 and education was only given online, causing many difficulties for the majority of Peruvians. Due to a lack of equipment and technology (internet, laptop, printer, etc.) thousands of students, mostly in rural areas, are affected in their learning. With people falling back into poverty and being isolated from their social network, numbers of violence went up and cases of (sexual) abuse were worse than ever. Two international foundations, **Wilde Ganzen (Holland)** and the **Buitenveldert Foundation (Holland)**, together with many smaller sponsors supported the projects in Peru with resources to cover the most urgent needs of the teenage mothers and knitters. They covered part of the salary of the (EMMA) team and the acquisition of food packages, mobile phones, hygiene, school and toy kits. This support for those vulnerable populations, yielded positive results and was essential. Many other local organizations helped with food parcels, clothes, nappies, school supplies and logistics. **68 children of knitters and teenage mothers - have an individual sponsor** covering their education expenses, through the organization Cunina (Belgium). 3 independent people support a teenage mother, with education and food expenses.

### Teenage mothers

- 222** teenage mothers received an emergency food package
- 111** hygiene kits, school packages & toy kits were distributed  
mobile phones went to teenage mothers and 102 teenage mothers got a monthly internet recharge for 7 months.
- 71** teenage mothers received financial support of 100 soles (€23) from Solid Peru.

### Knitters

- 207** knitters received an emergency food package
- 30** knitters received a smartphone, with a monthly internet recharge.
- 75%** of the knitters received monetary support from the Peruvian government, through an occasional national grant worth S/. 380 (€85), for those most vulnerable.
- 32** knitters living in extreme poverty received an extra emergency bonus of 150 soles (€35) from Manta, to relieve the most urgent needs during quarantine.

In **India**, the most vulnerable artisans also received an emergency aid from the social fund, the company has, during lockdown. COVID-19 impacted India heavily, but didn't reach the communities of the artisans.



# 5

# Support

- 5.1 Donate
- 5.2 Volunteer



# 5 Support

## 5.1 Donate

### Donations for 45% tax deductible

Solid guarantees your gift will be spent 100% on our projects. Solid covers all the overhead costs in Belgium. Professional follow-up of each of our projects is secured.

More information: <https://solidinternational.be/support> or mail to Inge Overmeer: [inge@solidinternational.be](mailto:inge@solidinternational.be)

Koning Boudewijnstichting  
Brederodestraat 21  
B-1000 Brussel  
Bankaccount: IBAN: BE10 0000 0000 0404  
BIC: BPOTBEB1

0415.580.365 RPR Brussel  
BTW : BE0415580365

Reference to use: \*\*\*020/1130/00015\*\*\*

At Solid we dedicate ourselves every day to help others, but that is only possible thanks to your financial support. Support us with € 40 or more and enjoy this tax benefit!

Every donation makes a difference, now more than ever.

## 5.2 Volunteer

Always dreamed of helping a hand in an international organization, striving to do something about poverty? Do you speak Spanish and/or English and do you have experience in management, agriculture, textile, education, psychology or social work? Some free time to help our Belgian team or interested to work as a volunteer (6 months – 1 year) abroad or do you have a thesis subject linked to one of our working fields?

Fill in the form on our website and we will contact you as soon as possible: <https://solidinternational.be/volunteers>.



When I moved to Gent, Solid presented itself as a caring, straightforward, and impactful organization which would enable me to do what I was looking for. Soon after starting my volunteering with Solid, I realized with what empathy everyone is engaged in their projects. I help the team of Solid once a week, with what is needed at that moment; researching, writing, reviewing and meetings. I feel that my work is valued and appreciated. It is the perfect opportunity to gain experience besides my studies and it is inspiring to know that there is direct contact between the different teams across the globe (...). This is how international cooperation should look like. I am grateful to be able to be part of something that brings joy and support to people around the world!

- Theresa Adams -





# S O L I D

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Designed by: Joëlle Heirbaut

The numbers presented in the graphs are approximations.

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